

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 055036
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY CTF: JEKARKASHIAN:NWH
APPROVED BY CTF: AMB. HECK
ARA/AND - MR. DEVINE (DRAFT)
PC - MR. HANSEN
ARA - WHLUERS
M - MR. VAN GILDER (DRAFT)
S/S-O SGOLDSMITH

-----112330Z 002215 /75

O 112230Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 055036

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ASEC, CO

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF PCV STARR

REFS: A. BOGOTA 2183; B. 49582; C. BOGOTA 2031

1. IN ORDER TO CORRECT PRESUMED GOC MISCONCEPTION OF MARCH 2 DEMARCHE, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED AGAIN TO APPROACH FOREIGN MINISTRY AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL. THE PRESENTATION SHOULD BE VERBAL. IF THE MINISTRY REQUESTS AN AIDE MEMOIRE, IT CAN BE NOTED AND SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE TASK FORCE FOR CONSIDERATION.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD EXPRESS REGRET OVER ANY MISUNDERSTANDING OF USG INTENT IN EARLIER DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE AND NOTE

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THAT USG FULLY UNDERSTANDS AND APPRECIATES GOC POLICY ON KIDNAPPING AND THE PAYMENT OF RANSOM. GOC AND USG SHARE POLICY OF NO CONCESSIONS BY GOVERNMENT AND IT WAS NOT REPEAT NOT USG INTENT TO IMPLY IN ANY WAY THAT IT EXPECTED GOC TO NEGOTIATE WITH FARC OR TO PAY RANSOM FOR STARR'S RELEASE. IT WAS IN FACT BECAUSE OF FULL RESPECT FOR GOC SOVEREIGNTY THAT EMBASSY INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT

NEITHER IT NOR THE PEACE CORPS COULD NEGOTIATE A RANSOM
DEMAND WITH FARC SHOULD ONE BE RECEIVED. IT FOLLOWS

THEREFORE THAT ANY SUCH DEMAND RECEIVED BY EMBASSY OR
PEACE CORPS WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO GOC FOR WHATEVER
CONSIDERATION IT MIGHT DEEM APPROPRIATE.

3. TASK FORCE HOPES ABOVE APPROACH WILL HELP CLARIFY
SITUATION AND REMOVE ANY IMPEDIMENT TO CLOSE AND CO-
OPERATIVE EFFORT BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS FOR STARR'S SAFE
AND EARLY RELEASE. BEGIN FYI. WE ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDER-
ING NEXT STAGE TO ABOVE SCENARIO. WE BELIEVE IT MAY BE-
COME NECESSARY TO EXPLORE GOC ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE
INITIATIVES BY PRIVATE PARTIES, INCLUDING PAYMENT OF
RANSOM, BUT IN MANNER WHICH WOULD NOT COMPROMISE OFFICIAL
POLICY OF EITHER GOVERNMENT. INSTRUCTIONS RE FOLLOW-ON
STEPS WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER
TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE FULLY EXPLORED AND APPROVED
BY TASK FORCE. END FYI.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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